



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 39, Summer 2015

Beyond the classroom

Around campus, History department faculty members are known for their passion for teaching and their dedication to students. This passion is



Orvieto, Italy, 2014

evidenced not only by their extensive knowledge in their content fields, but by their willingness to take their students out into the world to show them what it is actually like to “do history.”

Anthony Crubaugh, department chair, believes students should always be learning outside the classroom; this is why the University has developed numerous study abroad opportunities. The department furthers Illinois State University’s mission by supporting faculty-sponsored class field trips and study abroad opportunities. The department also has expanded its internship program to include numerous organizations around Blooming-

ton-Normal. Crubaugh describes these activities as “co-curricular and not extracurricular.” Giving students these opportunities involves numerous people working together, including faculty, staff, students, and donors. Crubaugh said nearly all the activities outside the classroom require alumni and donors who had a good experience here and are committed to paying it forward for today’s students.

Katie Jasper, Alan Lessoff, Dan Stump, Richard Hughes, Richard Soderlund, and Monica Noraian are just a few examples of history professors who have organized learning experiences outside the classroom. Their field trips, study abroad opportunities, and internships provide real-world experience and help students make connections between the past and present. They also build class cohesion, enhance the students’ research skills, and bring history to life.

Katie Jasper organized a field trip to the world-renown Newberry Library in Chicago. In spring 2014, she taught second-year Latin after the revival of the classical studies minor. To engage and inspire her students, she organized a field trip to the Newberry Library to examine medieval texts and manuscripts. One of the documents was over 1,000 years old. Jasper said the experience completely changed the way her class treated the language for the rest of the semester. Some of them planned a follow-up visit to the Newberry over winter break because they wanted more time with the documents.

She also co-organized a study

abroad program to Italy last summer with Lea Cline from the School of Art. Nineteen students lived in the small town of Orvieto, Italy, which was chosen for its history. The town was once an important Etruscan and Roman city before it again rose to some prominence during the Middle Ages. Orvieto is roughly halfway between Florence and Rome so travel between the two was convenient and students visited those two cities, as well as Arezzo and Siena. The students involved themselves in the local life of Orvieto, participating in several local festivals and making friends along the way. Jasper also arranged for the students to enter the historical archives of Orvieto, where they viewed documents from the 13th through the 19th centuries. Jasper believes that study abroad programs help students become immersed in history because



Springfield, IL, 2014

she can discuss historical change on the very site where it took place. “Study abroad has been shown universally to provide nothing but benefits for stu-

Continued on page 6



Letter from the chair, Anthony Crubaugh

The History Department hosts or co-sponsors talks and academic events. Such activities contribute to an intellectually vibrant campus, offering students co-curricular educational opportunities that highlight the learning that takes place outside of the classroom. They also fulfill an important civic role by making knowledge created in the academy accessible to the wider public.

In 2014-15 the department had an especially active year full of high visibility and frequent interdisciplinary events that enhanced intellectual life at ISU. For example, the International Studies Seminar saw three faculty members discuss their research on the theme of "Global Cities," while we co-sponsored two more talks in that series by external historians. We also hosted lectures by University of Illinois at Chicago's Kevin Schultz, on Norman Mailer and William F. Buckley, and the University of Toronto's Ishita Pande, on law and childhood in colonial India, the latter in partnership with Philosophy, English, and Women's and Gender Studies (WGS).

Among the numerous events commemorating the catastrophic Great War, two colleagues gave talks in Milner Library's "Answering the Call" series and four colleagues taught World War I related themes for the Academy of Seniors. The university-wide Teaching Symposium included nine presenters from the History Department on topics such as "Redesign Your General Education Course." We launched a busy spring with

the History-Social Sciences Education Symposium, co-hosted by the McLean County Museum of History and the Regional Office of Education, which attracted 225 teachers and future teachers. Seven history faculty gave presentations, as did more than 12 alumni teachers. In conjunction with the Illinois Humanities Council and teachers statewide, History again co-organized the Capitol Forum on America's Future and welcomed to ISU 175 high school students for a day-long workshop on human rights. In April, History co-sponsored the WGS Symposium and keynote address by philosopher/poet Jennifer Lisa Vest, and also co-organized a European Studies Symposium—an ambitious four-day program involving two keynote lectures, 12 scholarly papers, and a visit from the Consul General of Poland. Finally, we hosted two major events in the President's Speakers Series: UIC's Cedric Johnson spoke on "The City that Care Forgot" (post-Katrina New Orleans) to a packed house for Black History Month, and Yale's Jay Winter presented "A Look at the Great War: 100 Years Later," to an audience of 300.

History students and faculty are exhilarated if slightly exhausted by the dynamic schedule. We are also deeply grateful for the generous donations that help fund such events. Thank you, and please let us know how and what you are doing!

Comings and goings

The History Department is pleased to welcome Qiliang He, a specialist in 20th century Chinese history. Born and raised in Shanghai, China, he arrived in the United States in 2000. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota in 2006 and spent eight years in South Carolina teaching Chinese, East Asian, and world history classes.

In the past several years, he has worked on projects on popular culture and mass media in modern China. His first book, *Gilded Voices: Economics,*

Politics, and Storytelling in the Yangzi Delta since 1949 (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012), explores the complex interplay between the Communist regime and popular artists/storytellers in China over the past six decades. He is working on two projects; a sensational love affair in the late 1920s, and a history of Chinese journalism in the first half of the 20th century. Since arriving at ISU, he has offered courses including HIS 104.02, History of East Asia, HIS 207, History of Chinese Civilization, HIS 373, History of Modern China, and an independent studies session for a graduate student. His hobbies include sports, watching TV, reading, and traveling.



Qiliang He

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IN MEMORIAM

Kyle Sessions

Emeriti faculty member Kyle Sessions, 80, most recently of Dayton, Ohio, passed away Saturday, December 27. Born July 6, 1934, in Idaho, he attended the Ohio State University, where he received his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. in history in 1963.

In 1968, Kyle accepted a teaching position in the History Department and remained here until retiring in 1999. His teaching career also included two sabbaticals spent at the University of Salzburg, Austria, and two teaching

exchange semesters with Beijing University, China.

Highlights of his 31-year career at ISU included directing ISU's Honors Program from 1973 to 1978; the publication of *Pieta Pietas Et Societas: New Trends in Reformation Social History* (1985), a collection of essays to commemorate the life and work of his mentor, Harold Grimm; and writing a 75th anniversary history of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, for which he served as grand historian from 1994 to 2004 and as chapter advisor for most

of his career.

However, as he often remarked, his greatest professional achievement was teaching, pure and simple, where he encouraged his students to think critically, helped to hone their historical research and analysis skills, and urged them to question, always question. There will be a memorial service from 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 10, at ISU Alumni Center, Room 116, 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, IL.

Georgia Tsouvala—Gertrude Smith Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens

by Georgia Tsouvala

In 2014, I was honored to be appointed Gertrude Smith Professor and co-director of the first summer session at the American School of Classical



Tsouvala in Greece

Studies at Athens (ASCSA) with Lee Brice, history professor at Western Illinois University, who taught for our

department last spring. ASCSA is the largest and oldest foreign institution in Greece and its libraries and academic programs include all things Hellenic from the Neolithic period to modern times. It is an institution well known in North American and Europe for its research facilities as well as for the rigor and interdisciplinary nature of its programs.

The summer session was every bit as challenging as the warnings we had received from prior directors about the trials and tribulations of an intense summer program. By the time it was concluded, everyone departed with much to think about and with a quiver of tools upon which to build in their studies and careers. The session included 19 participants from classical studies programs all over the U.S.; seven undergraduates, 11 graduates, and one Latin teacher. Everyone grew with the program, picking up the vocabulary, skills, appreciation for cultural conservation and inheritance

and for museum studies, and an eye for topographic and architectural detail necessary to get the most out of sites and museums. Participants embraced the topography, monuments, and artifacts as well as some of the language, history, and culture of the modern country – the “physicality” of Greece – that anchors the ASCSA’s academic mission.

At the end, there were tears of sadness. However, the summer will live on in everyone’s heart and memories through digital images. Greece is now more than colorful photos and black and white narratives in books; it is a multi-dimensional experience upon which they can draw in all aspects of their life. I, too, learned so much I will bring back for my research and into the classroom.

2014–2015 Student Awards

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARDS

BEST MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENT

Meghan Hawkins
Fusheng Luo

BEST AMERICAN THESIS

Kera Storr

BEST GLOBAL THESIS

Fusheng Luo

LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Samuel Quast
David Shanahan

GLEYNafa A. RAY AWARD

Blake Bodine
Matthew Donta
Nora Dunne
Kerry Garvey

MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Adam Barnes
Jeremy Yeary

JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Schrems

DARREL A. SUTTER AWARD

Jason Blankenship
Trevor Shields

DARREL A. SUTTER TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP

John Coners

DARREL A. SUTTER WRITING AWARDS

Greg Staggs
Ryan Martin
Kevin Shackley

KYLE C. SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Beau Ott

WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Lucas Mays

HARMON RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Diana Enriquez
Lizette Gonzalez

LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD

Emily Kelch
Sareh Ricca

HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

Michelle Bartula
Dean Kamps

Alumni spotlight: Angela Skinner

by Caitlin Neilson

Angela Skinner M.S. '11 received her bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Illinois State University. Angela grew up in Bloomington and attended Central Catholic High School. One of her history teachers at Central Catholic influenced her to pursue her love of history locally at ISU. As an undergraduate, she was interested in history, the law, and teaching. She took part in the history education program and signed up for as many classes as possible on the post-World War II era, which was her special area of interest. After student teaching, however, she realized that education was not a career path that she wished to continue, and she decided to focus on law.

Skinner pursued a master's degree in history prior to applying to law school. She remembers her time as a graduate student fondly. "I always enjoyed decorating the history office for homecoming. I also helped to make the float for the homecoming parade." She also loved the history graduate program because she was able to tailor her studies. For example, her favorite class was "Lincoln as a Lawyer" with Professor Stewart Winger, combining her love of history and the law. She also wrote an extensive research paper on Native American law in another graduate-level course.

Skinner was accepted into law school at the University of Illinois in Champaign. She stressed that her undergraduate and especially her graduate work helped prepare her for law school. "I was used to reading up to three books a week during graduate school," she said, so the work load was not as daunting. She also found the professor-student dynamic to be similar to graduate school. While she was used to working hard, she said, "Nothing can prepare you for the experience

of exams" in law school. Even though her exams were stressful, she thoroughly enjoyed her three years at the University of Illinois.

She graduated in May 2014, and took and passed the bar exam in July 2014.

In November 2014, she was sworn in as a family law lawyer and began working at Allison & Mosby-Scott, a family law firm in Bloomington. She chose a small law firm out of her commitment to the community of Bloomington and plans to remain local in the future. Her varied educational experiences show that students shouldn't fear having a change of heart about their career path. She advises that it's never too late to make a change. "Don't be afraid if you figure out it's not what you want for the long term," she said. There are many other options available to history majors, as her career path has illustrated.



For more information, visit
Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

Alumni updates

Matt Donta '14 is teaching U.S. history, world history, and geography at Kinglee High School, an international school, in Zhengzhou, China.

James Fornacieri '85, a teacher at Glenbard West High School, was named Midwestern AP Teacher of the Year by the College Board.

Alex Johnson '13 will work as an interpreter for the Park Service in Pompey's Pillar in Montana.

Hannah Johnson M.S. '13 was recently named education program coordinator at the McLean County Museum of History.

Jason Kaplan M.S. '01, M.A. historical archeology '07, is an archivist at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark.

Chad Kuehnl '01 is teaching at the Regional Alternative School in Bloomington. In October 2014 he received the WHOI News One-Class-at-a-Time award, which included \$1,000. He was nominated by one of his students. In November 2014, he received his National Board Certification in social studies/history.

Kyle Malinowski, BA '09 is employed at State Farm as an archivist.

Ned Marto '10, M.S. '13 has been accepted into the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's graduate program in Modern and Contemporary Art History, Theory, and Criticism.

Mike Mitchell '10, M.S. '14 will do a summer internship at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

His thesis was the University's runner-up in the James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis competition for 2014.

Samantha Siemiawski '12 is teaching social studies at Romeoville High School, where she also serves at the girls' softball junior varsity coach.

Meghan Vangorder '10 teaches social studies at Olympia Middle School. Last summer she was invited to Gettysburg, Pa., to present her award winning website, Lincoln's Bloomington: lincolnsbloomington.com.

Student spotlight

ISU Undergraduate Research Symposium

Four history and history-social sciences education majors participated in the ISU Undergraduate Research Symposium this spring, presenting posters that summarized their research. The symposium is held each spring in the Bone Student Center. Open to the campus community and the public, it is a campus-wide showcase of students' research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. Projects may be completed or in progress. The symposium is open to all ISU students engaged in research, scholarship, and creative endeavor under the direction of a faculty mentor.

Corey Orr—Swordbrothers

Joseph Saracini—The Gregorian Reform of Celibate Priests

Zohra Saulat—Subjects of the Empire & Subject to the Empire: Gender, Power, and the Inconceivable "Victims" of the British Raj (1858-1947)

Thomas Thompson—Bridging the Gap: The Connections between Cultures in Tacitus' Germania

Study Abroad Experiences

In the past academic year, 11 history students participated in study abroad experiences with the help of scholarships from the department. Jordan Hunter and Amy Struck went to Italy; Beau Ott traveled to Spain; and Joseph Sporn, Zack Ridgway, Alice Somers, Connor Boray, Zach Johnson, Kerry Garvey, Nicole Luoma, and Christopher Ruud did part of their student teaching in England.



Student teachers in England

Faculty awards



Department Chair Anthony Crubaugh and Lisa Kennedy

Three faculty members earned university awards this year. **Larissa Kennedy** was awarded the Outstanding University Teacher Award—Category II, which recognizes the most outstanding university teachers each year. **Patrice Olsen** and **Ron Gifford** won Impact Awards from University College. These awards are given after

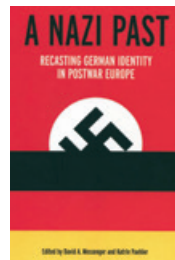
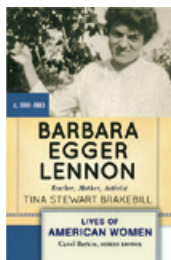
freshmen and new transfer students are contacted to nominate an individual who has made a difference in their education and academic success. Externally, **Issam Nassar** and co-editor Salim Tamari won the Palestine Award (memoir category) from the *Middle East Monitor* in London for their book, *The Storyteller of Jerusalem* (2013).

Books published

Faculty had a very productive year with seven books published. The titles include: **Tina Brakebill**, *Barbara Egger Lennon: Teacher, Mother, Activist* (Westview Press, 2015); **Suzanne Broderick**, *Real War vs. Reel War: Veterans, Hollywood, and WWII* (Rowman and

Littlefield, 2015); **Andrew Hartman**, *A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars* (University of Chicago Press, 2015); **Alan Lessoff**, *Where Texas Meets the Sea: Corpus Christi and Its History* (University of Texas Press, 2015); David Messenger and **Katrin**

Paehler (eds.), *A Nazi Past: Recasting German Identity in Postwar Europe* (University of Kentucky Press, 2015); and Mikiso Hane and **Louis Perez**, *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey* (Westview Press, 2014).



Beyond the classroom, from Page 1

dents as they move on from university and go into the workforce,” she said. “They generally have a skill set that those who have not studied abroad do not. They have a greater perspective on the world, world issues, perhaps even another language. Their horizons are widened.”

Alan Lessoff's fields of urban, public, and local history by their nature invite off-campus activities and revolve around interaction with museums and historical sites. Working with Bill Kemp, special collections librarian at the McLean County Museum of History, Lessoff devised a series of projects that introduce students in History 322, the course for juniors and seniors on U.S. urban history, to standard

research methods for urban history, as well as how local history archives are organized and work. In his graduate seminar in local and public history methods, students spend evenings at central Illinois museums and historical sites, hearing directly from those who work in these institutions about professional and organizational issues. On two occasions, Russell Lewis, the head curator of the Chicago History Museum (CHM), has taken Lessoff's students around the museum's renowned Chicago history exhibition to explain the practical and interpretive considerations behind its design.

These classes intertwine with the department's internship program, which Lessoff advises and whose

emphasis is a practical introduction to the variety of history-related occupations. The department's main connection for placing interns is at the McLean County Museum, where students gain experience in educational programming, curating, archival work, digital and multimedia history, and public relations and fundraising. In addition to the museum and the David Davis Mansion, the department oversees internships with institutions including the Town of Normal, Bloomington's Second Presbyterian Church, the Livingston County War Museum, and the Illinois State University Archives.

Every time **Dan Stump** teaches “Lincoln: The Man and His Times,” he

takes students to Springfield to learn about the places Lincoln lived and worked. ISU is perfectly situated for this learning experience, as Stump and his students jump on an early morning train for a short one hour ride to Springfield. Stump said, “It’s almost a sin not to take them. You’ve got the house, the tomb, the statehouse, the law office, and then of course, the museum. It’s all within walking distance.” The students see numerous historical sites related to Lincoln and return on the late afternoon train. Although many of his students had visited these historical sites as children, his class allows them to apply a much more sophisticated analysis and understanding to these important sites. The trip also builds comradery and creates a team, he said. At the end of the semester, his students routinely comment that the trip is the best part of the class.

Richard Hughes and Richard Soderlund collaborated on a university’s study abroad program in London, Paris, and Amsterdam in summer 2014. Students took History 107 or History 308 with Soderlund in May and then enriched their traditional classroom experience with a summer study abroad experience in Europe with Hughes. The relatively short study abroad trip minimizes costs and the impact of travel on academic schedules and summer employment. For some students, the experience reinforces the goals of general education at Illinois State. For history education majors, the three cities provide rewarding field work that strengthens their understanding of European history and ability to use urban spaces, material culture, and public history to teach about the past. Study abroad provides future teachers with an opportunity to enhance their preparation for a tight job market. Regardless of background and career plans, Hughes said, “I’ve never met a student who regretted studying abroad. It’s always been one of the most powerful learning experiences, whether it’s a whole semester or a couple of weeks. It changes one’s perspective.”

Monica Noraian uses experiences

outside of the classroom to teach and encourage civic engagement. She has students in her History 309, Topics in the History of American Education: Teaching for Change and Social Justice, visit a school board meeting to gain first-hand experience with the politics of schools and school reform. They use this experience to run a model school and reform simulation, which helps them to think about and engage in these topics more fully. Noraian and Fred Walk also take their students to Towanda, Illinois to help preserve a portion of Route 66. Students clean, mulch, paint and plant areas along the historic Route 66 highway. Noraian describes the project as “a monument to the past and a learning tool.” These experiences also take students out of their comfort zones and immerse them in environments different from their typical lives. “I want students to have these experiences, so when they go back to their schools, they can look for these community resources and opportunities, to either bring into their classroom or encourage students to go out into the community,” she said. “History is more than just the historical narrative in a textbook, its everyday lives.”

In partnership with the Chicago Public Schools and the ISU Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline program, Noraian also takes students to Chicago for two days as part of History 390. The students visit schools, museums, ethnic restaurants, explore culturally diverse neighborhoods, and have an opportunity to talk with community organizations as they learn more about collaborating and teaching. To acquaint them with the city and diverse communities that make up the school populations, Noraian organizes a scavenger hunt. Students go to grocery stores, pharmacies, and markets in order to obtain a wider understanding of the communities that surround Chicago Public Schools. The trip provides them with a way to envision their classroom in the future and consider teaching in urban environments. “When a student experiences something, they’re more likely to replicate it for their students



On Route 66, 2015

in the future, so part of our goal is to expand people’s world views beyond the Bloomington-Normal area,” she said. “As teachers, we teach the way we are taught, so if we keep repeating the same teaching techniques, we’re never going to impact change beyond a certain level. We hope we are preparing our students to be teachers, historians, and activists.”

Bloomington-Normal, Towanda, Springfield, Chicago, Italy, England, France, and the Netherlands: these are just a few of the places students visited in conjunction with their history courses over the last year. These diverse venues illustrate the commitment of ISU history faculty members to creating interesting and educational experiences outside of the traditional classroom. These experiences broaden students’ world view, helping prepare them for teaching and other professional opportunities, and bonding the class through shared learning activities and opportunities for civic engagement. Other history faculty members are working to create new learning experiences outside of the classroom, including, for example, a visit to Hull House in Chicago and study abroad opportunities in China. Each of these past and future experiences show the commitment of History Department faculty to dynamic teaching methods that focus not on memorizing dates, but thinking deeply about historical causation and methodology.

Faculty accomplishments

Agbenyega Adedze created an online local history exhibit, “History of Soccer: Bloomington/Normal,” and conducted research in Haiti for a study of the public memory of slavery.

Roger Biles published “Expressways before the Interstates: The Case of Detroit” in the *Journal of Urban History* and coauthored the introduction to the special issue in which it appeared.

Kyle Ciani completed revisions on her book manuscript, *Choosing to Care: One Hundred Years of Social Reform in San Diego, 1850-1950*, currently under review with the University of Nebraska Press.

Linda Clemmons received a “Redesign Your Course for Civic Engagement” Grant from ISU’s American Democracy Project and has completed three chapters of her newest book manuscript.

Anthony Crubaugh chaired the Provost Search Committee and coauthored a successful European Union Grant to hold a four-day European Studies Symposium at ISU.

Andrew Hartman’s “The Ideology Problem in Teaching and Scholarship” was the keynote address at the Society for U.S. Intellectual History’s annual meeting. He is organizing the 2015 meeting.

Qiliang He published “Between Accommodation and Resistance: Pingtan Storytelling in 1960s Shanghai” in *Modern Asian Studies* and has a book manuscript under review with the University of Hawaii Press.

Richard Hughes received an Illinois Council for the Social Studies grant and presented “Ghetto Tourism and the Grand Tour” at the Midwest American Culture Association annual meeting.

Katie Jasper’s chapter, “Hermitism in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries,” will be published in the Cambridge History of Monasticism in the Latin West.

Ross Kennedy had articles accepted in the *Journal of American History* and the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*. He also gave an invited talk to the Organization of American Historians.

Alan Lessoff published a chapter on Theodore Roosevelt and the presidential election of 1912 in the *Retrieving the American Past* series and gave the Kohlenberg-Towne Lecture at Truman State University.

Issam Nassar published “Photographing the Fourth Army and the Suez Campaign” in *Jerusalem Quarterly* and co-organized a conference on “Photography’s Shifting Terrain” at NYU-Abu Dhabi.

Monica Noraian received three CTLT grants and presented “Establishing a Democratic Classroom Community” at the Organization of Education Historians annual meeting.

Patrice Olsen presented “I Will Return and I Will Be Millions: Vernacular and State-Sponsored Memorials to the *Desaparecidos*” at the Conference on Latin American History.

Katrin Paehler gave three invited talks in Europe, including “Auslandsspionage—Ideologie und Illusion” at the Topographie des Terrors Institute at Humboldt University in Berlin.

Lou Perez’s “Mutual Misinformation and Misunderstanding: The Omaha and Panay Incidents” was the keynote lecture at the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies Seminar at the University of Illinois.

John Reda served as an expert historical consultant for The Learning Channel (See story on page 11).

Touré Reed published “Title VII: The Rise of Workplace Fairness and the Decline of Economic Justice, 1964-2013” in *LABOR: Studies in Working Class History in the Americas*.

Richard Soderlund presented “Britain and the Great War: Some Consequences of Total War” as part of the ISU Academy of Seniors’ program devoted to World War I.

Sudipa Topdar’s article, “Duties of a ‘Good Citizen’: Colonial Secondary School Textbook Policies in Late Nineteenth-century India,” was published in *South Asian History and Culture*.

Georgia Tsouvala published “Women Members of a Gymnasium in the Roman East (IG IV 732)” in *Ancient Documents and their Contexts: First North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy*.

Christine Varga-Harris presented “Orientalism, Soviet Style” at an international conference on “The ‘Second World’ and the ‘Global South,’ 1945-1991” at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany.

Stewart Winger received a book contract for *Lincoln and Internal Improvements*, which will appear in the Concise Lincoln Library series from Southern Illinois University Press.

Amy Wood received a Hackman Research Grant from New York State to conduct research on her new book; some of her findings were presented as a conference paper at the University of Mississippi.

The anniversary of World War I keeps faculty busy

by Linda Spencer

The 100th anniversary of World War I has sparked renewed interest in the conflict. Several of our faculty members were invited to events and conferences on campus and beyond to share their knowledge about one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. Ross Kennedy, Issam Nassar, Dan Stump, and Richard Soderlund participated in events analyzing WWI from a national and international perspective. Vanette Schwartz, ISU librarian, and April Anderson, archivist, created special exhibits and developed online resources about the war. In cooperation with the President's Office, the History department also hosted guest lecturer and WWI expert Jay Winter (see story on this event on page 11).

Faculty applied their diverse areas of expertise to WWI. Kennedy, an expert on Woodrow Wilson's foreign policy, has spoken and written extensively about WWI. Kennedy was part of an online roundtable discussion with five other experts, including Winter, Jennifer Keene, Julia Irwin, Christopher Capozzola, and Michael Nieberg. The results of their discussion will be published in the *Journal of American History*. He also was invited to write an article for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History* entitled "The American Experience during World War I." Last summer Kennedy led a seminar for graduate students and assistant professors on Woodrow Wilson and WWI at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations at the Summer Institute at Williams College. He also gave a talk at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia and was interviewed on WJBC on the outbreak of the war. Kennedy says he is "happy that academics, the media and private organizations are taking notice here because World War I tends to be overlooked in the United States." He believes the interest will continue until the 2019 anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference.

Nassar, the department's Middle

East historian, has lectured widely on WWI and the Middle East. His involvement in the many professional activities related to WWI history began with his participation in a course in Washington D.C. sponsored by the National Endowment of the Humanities in 2012. Professors from across the United States spent seven weeks discussing the events and interpretations of the war. These discussions will produce a website on WWI and the Middle East. He also presented talks on WWI and the Middle East at Georgetown University, Ohio State University, Wright State University, and University of Dayton. Internationally, he participated in two conferences on WWI in Istanbul; "Not all Quiet on the Eastern Front" and "Ottoman Fourth Army during World War I." He also has written for the online *Encyclopedia of World War I* on photography and war on the Eastern Front and contributed to a special edition of the journal *Jerusalem Quarterly* on "Palestine in World War I." Nassar describes his work as "a great experience where I have met many people who work on World War I history and learned so much."

Stump has lectured on the weapons of the war and their effects. His interest stems in part from the fact that his father and grandfather were soldiers. His grandfather Joe Stump, was an artillery sergeant who served as a balloon observer. This meant that he went up in hot air balloons and searched for the enemy's artillery. His father, Michael Stump, served with the 82nd Airborne between the World War II and the Korean War.

Several campus events brought faculty members together to discuss and debate WWI. In the fall of 2014 Milner Library hosted a multi-week special event titled "Answering the Call: ISNU's Librarian & the 'Great War.'" The event included an exhibit featuring WWI posters and memorabilia collected and preserved by Ange Milner,

the University's first full-time librarian. Kennedy, Nassar, alum Bill Kemp, and five others gave presentations. Finally, students from the School of Theatre and Dance delivered readings of letters written to Ange Milner from ISNU students.

This spring the Academy of Seniors held classes on the history of WWI featuring Kennedy speaking on "Breakdown: the Origins and Outbreak of World War I"; Soderlund on "Britain and the Great War: Some Consequences of Total War"; Stump on "WWI Weapons and their Effects"; and Nassar on "The Great War in the Middle East." Each of these sessions was attended by more than 100, which, according to organizers, was the largest turnout ever. One of the attendees, Lynda Lane, said she attended "to learn more about the political and social reasons for the war." She was very impressed with the depth of knowledge of the faculty members.

In January the History-Social Sciences Education Symposium, held annually in cooperation with the Regional Office of Education and the McLean County Museum of History, included a "Teaching World War I" presentation by Stump, Kennedy, and Nassar. Their presentations focused on preparing middle and high school history teachers to examine the Great War with their students.

The Great War has faded in historical memory as the WWI generation has passed. History faculty, however, are working to keep the memory of the war alive through presentations, websites, and educating a new generation of teachers about the war. There is an enormous amount of historical data and primary sources available to researchers. Faculty members are using this information to generate new interpretations of the war, which hopefully will keep discussions and debates over WWI relevant for another 100 years.

History Ed Symposium in new location this year

The 2015 History Symposium, “Teaching History and The Social Sciences: The Time Is Now,” was hosted by the History Department for the first time in eight years.



Over 250 teachers, student teachers, and current ISU students attended. Attendees chose from a diverse variety of sessions presented by Illinois State graduates and faculty. One of the highlights included an assortment of sessions on World War I to commemorate the war’s 100th anniversary.

The presentations included “WWI in the Middle East” and “Using Heavy Metal Music to Teach World War I.”

Another enticing session linked WWI to local history. “The McLean County Home Front during World War I,” presented by Bill Kemp, discussed the often forgotten role that McLean County played during WWI. Kemp explained that everyday locations around McLean County hold historical significance. For example, in 1914, the Snyder office building in Bloomington changed its name from the German-American State Bank to the American State Bank due to rampant anti-German sentiment. He also showed a series of pictures that captured life in WWI-era Bloomington-Normal.

Kelly Keogh, an Illinois State graduate school alum, presented a lively session entitled “All Roads Lead Back to Versailles: WWI and its Impact on Current Global Issues.” While some people attended the session for its subject content, others wanted to learn teaching techniques. Andre Schaafsma, a history education major, said he attended because he had “observed one of Keogh’s classes and I knew how animated he was. I knew it would be interesting.” The session did not disappoint, as Keogh lectured energetically for half the session and then set up a group activity. Keogh noted the importance of teaching not just for the student, but for the teacher. “I learn more through teaching,” Keogh said. His statement sums up the importance of the History Symposium, which brings together history teachers from across Illinois to share enriching teaching ideas and techniques.

Capitol Forum bigger than ever

High school students from across the state came to Illinois State on April 16 to participate in the Capitol Forum. The event allows high school students to learn about and become engaged in humanitarian issues. With the help of many organizations, such as the Constitutional Rights Foundation and Illinois Humanities Council, high schools were given grants to fund their trip to Normal. Students began their day by investigating a specific case study related to human rights. These case studies were facilitated by Illinois State History Education 290 students.

Students then learned more about human rights from six experts in the field, including professors J.D. Bowers from Northern Illinois University and Illinois State professors Patrice Olsen and Pam Hoff. These experts led discussions that allowed the high school students to interact with the specialists and investigate human rights issues together. Several foundations also were represented at the Forum, including the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, and the Citizen Advocacy Center.

The culmination was a human rights simulation. The high school students divided into groups and worked to



develop a human rights policy. Each group was assigned one of four policy options and needed to create a presentation, and then present their findings. While high school teachers were available to help, the students were in charge. Jennifer Conlon, a teacher at Maine East High School, told students, “I don’t want it to be my words; I want it to be your words.” The History Education 290 students also were available to help shape the students’ discussion and creation of their presentations.

Department hosts guest lecturers

by Caitlin Neilson

On March 26, Emmy-award winner and Yale University Professor of History **Jay Winter** addressed a standing-



Jay Winter

room only crowd on World War I (WWI) in honor of its centennial. His lecture, “The Great War 100 Years After: A Transnational Approach,” wove together a wide range of topics including WWI historiography, the importance of public history, and how visual subjects can help interpret historical events. Winter also spoke of his experience in designing a museum

about the Great War that centers on visuals as a method of learning about history. Through this museum, he hopes to provide a “story of humanity in wartime” as well as a “global story” on the war. These topics proved to be thought-provoking, as illustrated by the long and enthusiastic question-and-answer session that followed.

In honor of Black History Month, **Cedric Johnson**, associate professor of African American studies and political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, delivered a lecture on the politics of Hurricane Katrina, “The City that Care Forgot: New Orleans and the Future of American Urbanism.” Johnson argued that the devastation that occurred in the wake

of the 2006 hurricane was due to more than Mother Nature. He placed the blame on neoliberal restructuring and examined how pro-market reforms are reshaping life, politics, and the economy in New Orleans. Along with providing his perspective on the politics, he described his experience as a volunteer in New Orleans after Katrina. He made it clear there are limits to volunteerism. People also need to engage in political discourse to solve issues like those that occurred in New Orleans.



Cedric Johnson

John Reda appears on TLC’s “Who Do You Think You Are?”

John Reda, the department’s specialist in colonial America, was invited to participate in the The Learning Channel’s original program “Who Do You Think You Are?” The program investigates the genealogical background of celebrities. Reda helped investigate the ancestors of Melissa Etheridge. Etheridge traced ancestors from her father’s side, who originally resided in Quebec, Canada in the 1700s. Her five times great-grandfather Nicolas Janis moved from Quebec to Kaskaskia, Ill., in the mid-1700s. Reda met Etheridge at the Church of the Immaculate Conception to present and discuss docu-

ments relating to Janis and his life in the Mississippi Valley. The documents included his 1751 marriage certificate, an entry from the diary of an American official in the region showing Janis as the head of the local militia, and a Spanish census showing that Janis and his household—including over a dozen slaves—had moved across the Mississippi River to Spanish Louisiana in the 1780s. “I enjoyed collaborating with the research and production teams and had a lot of fun at the shoot seeing how everything was done and working with Melissa Etheridge,” Reda said. “It was a great experience.”



John Reda with Melissa Etheridge



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